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Soviets 'anti-social' to Chinese

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The Moscow magazine New Times has raised the pitch of the Soviet war of words with China by calling China "anti-socialist," one of the worst epithets in the lexicon of the Communists.

Soviet media have hitherto called China "anti-Soviet," but the new designation goes further.

Anti-socialism is the cornerstone of Mao Tse-tung's foreign policy, said New Times, and all of Peking's actions aim at weakening world socialism.

The authoritative weekly said that for several years China had frustrated united action by the socialist bloc in support of North Vietnam. New Times also charged China with trying to drive a wedge between the Socialist bloc and the Arab world and with giving diplomatic support to the Chilean junta.

This latest outburst from New Times came in the wake of continued Chinese detention of a Soviet helicopter and its crew. Moscow says the helicopter set out to render aid to a disabled frontier guard but strayed over the border in foggy weather on March 14.

The Chinese have held the Soviet crew incommunicado for more than seven weeks while investigating the possibility that the helicopter may have been conducting border reconnaissance. The Soviet Union has delivered a succession of notes to Peking, calling for release of the crew and return of the helicopter.